

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01

EB-07 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01

USSS-00 /091 W

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R 191553Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3814

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 4720

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) FBIS LONDON 190129Z AUG 75, (B) LISBON 4687

SUMMARY: ANTUNES GROUP CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO DRAFT POLITICAL ACTION PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH GENERAL OTELO CARVALHO. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THEY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. IN SPEECH AUGUST 18, PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES MADE IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR SUPPORT FOR FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND UNITY AGAINST REACTIONARY ATTACKS. GONCALVES SHOWS NO SIGNS OF GIVING UP HIS TENACIOUS EFFORT TO STAY IN POWER. ONE SOLDIER WAS KILLED BY PCP GUNFIRE AND ALMOST 100 PERSONS WERE INJURED IN PONTE DE LIMA IN MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT TO DATE IN CONTINUING WAVE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST  
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THE LEFT. OBSERVANCE OF INTERSINDICAL SYMBOLIC WORK STOPPAGE IN

LISBON/SETUBAL AREA AUGUST 19 WAS SPOTTY. END SUMMARY.

1. ANTUNES GROUP ACTIVITIES: THE ANTUNES GROUP CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO DRAFT A POLITICAL ACTION PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH GEN OTELO CARVALHO. INDICATIONS SO FAR ARE THAT THE ANTUNES GROUP WILL BE ABLE TO PRODUCE SOMETHING THAT WILL ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF OTELO AND HIS COPCON OFFICERS. MEANWHILE, SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNIST-LINING J-5 OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF IS EBBING. ARMY CHIEF GEN. FABIAO, WHO UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIS OWN STAFF HAS REPORTEDLY NOW SIGNED THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT, HAS CALLED FOR COMPLETE RESTRUCTURING OF J-5. IN ADDITION, HE HAS FORBIDDEN ONE OF ITS KEY ARMY MEMBERS FROM ENTERING ARMY HEADQUARTERS. THE AIR FORCE HAS WITHDRAWN ITS SUPPORT OF J-5, AND THE J-5 HEAD, CAPT RAMIO CORREIA, SACKED J-5'S MOST NOTORIOUS COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER, COL VARELA GOMES--PRESUMABLY IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HIS OWN SKIN. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS GOING TO GIVE IN EASILY, AND HIS LATEST SPEECH (REPORTED BELOW) IS PART OF HIS TENACIOUS EFFORT TO STAY IN POWER. EMBASSY SOURCE CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT, TOLD US THAT THE PRESIDENT TOLD HIM LAST WEEK THE SITUATION WAS STILL "NOT RIPE."

2. PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS: SPEAKING ON AUGUST 18 IN ALMADA (ACROSS RIVER FROM LISBON) BEFORE FRIENDLY AUDIENCE, PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR SUPPORT FOR HIMSELF AND THE FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS HOUR AND ONE-HALF SPEECH CARRIED ON NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TV INCLUDED:

- POLITICAL CRISIS: MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION HAS ARRIVED. PROBLEM IS NOT ONE OF PERSONALITIES, BUT ONE OF CLASS STRUGGLE. THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES DO SO IN A VAIN EFFORT TO AVOID LOSING THEIR CLASS PRIVILEGES.
- MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT: DOCUMENT WAS "UNDERHANDED POLITICAL MOVE" ON EVE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT DESIGNED TO PREVENT ITS INSTALLATION.
- FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT: IT IS GOVERNMENT OF GREAT PATRIOTS AND REVOLUTIONARIES--THE MOST COHESIVE GOVERNMENT SINCE APRIL 25. "NEVER HAVE I FELT SO ATTACHED TO A GOVERNMENT AS TO THE PRESENT ONE..."
- ROLE OF GOVERNMENT: STRONG POWER ON THE PART OF THE GOVERN-

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MENT IS REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH CURRENT CRISIS; ONLY ARMED FORCES HAS THE NECESSARY FORCE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION. NO GOVERNMENT--INCLUDING THE FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT--CAN LAST WITHOUT FORCEFUL SUPPORT.

--VIOLENCE: THE WAVE OF VIOLENCE MUST END. MILITARY AUTHORITIES ARE DUTY-BOUND TO ACT WITH FIRMNESS TO GUARANTEE ORDER AND SAFE-GUARD INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES. THERE IS A GREAT SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND THAT IN GERMANY

WHEN NAZISM WAS ESTABLISHING ITSELF.

--CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: ERRORS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED ON PART OF GOVERNMENT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH CHURCH--THE DECISION NOT TO RETURN RADIO RENASCENCA TO THE CHURCH WAS A GRAVE MISTAKE. BUT PROGRESSIVE CATHOLICS MUST NOW ASSIST IN THE TASK OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

--ANGOLA REFUGEES: RETURNING REFUGEES MERIT FULL SUPPORT FROM COUNTRYMEN; REFUGEES ARE ALSO VICTIMS OF FASCISM. GONCALVES CONCLUDED WITH EMOTIONAL CALL FOR UNITY IN SUPPORT OF AFM AND REVOLUTION.

3. VIOLENCE CONTINUES: NEW INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFT OCCURRED AUGUST 18 IN FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

--PONTE DE LIMA (VIANA DO CASTELO DISTRICT): DESPITE STRONG RESISTANCE BY COMMUNISTS, LARGE CROWDS ATTACKED AND BURNED PCP OFFICE. TROOPS SENT TO PROTECT OFFICE REPORTEDLY FIRED ON COMMUNISTS, KILLING ONE, AFTER SOLDIER HIT BY SHOTGUN BLAST FROM WITHIN BUILDING. OVER 100 PERSONS WERE INJURED, SEVERAL ARE IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

--ANGRA DO HEROISMO (AZORES): FOLLOWING MEETING OF DIARY FARMERS, OFFICES OF MDP/CDE AND MES SACKED AND THAT OF PCP ATTACKED AND BURNED. 16 PERSONS WERE INJURED WHEN COMMUNISTS RESISTED ATTACK WITH SHOTGUNS AND MOLATOV COCKTAILS. MDP/CDE LATER ANNOUNCED IT WAS CLOSING UP SHOP IN TERCEIRA.

--CAMELU (VISEU DISTRICT): PCP OFFICES SACKED IN UNRESISTED EARLY MORNING RAID.

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NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01

EB-07 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01

USSS-00 /091 W

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R 191553Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3815

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 4720

4. INTERSINDICAL STRIKE: PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE STRIKE, JUST ENDED, SHOW MIXED RESULTS. LISBON BANK WORKERS LARGELY OBSERVED THE STOPPAGE. SOME LISBON BUSES AND SUBWAY CONTINUED IN SERVICE. WORK STOPPAGE IGNORED IN MANY FACTORIES AND MOST BUSINESSES. FULL ASSESSMENT FOLLOWS.

5. COMMENT: GONCALVES' LONG SPEECH, FREQUENTLY INTERRUPTED BY CHANTS FROM PARTISAN CROWD LED BY CHEER LEADING VASCO SUPPORTERS, WAS LARGELY A REHEARSAL OF THE BASIC THEMES OF HIS AUGUST 16 STATEMENT (REFTEL). IT WAS VINTAGE GONCALVES. THE ALREADY CONVERTED WERE RECONFIRMED IN THEIR BELIEFS. FOR THOSE WITH DOUBTS, HOWEVER, REHASH OF FAMILIAR THEMES LACED WITH EXHORTATIONS TO PATRIOTISM AND CHARGES OF BAD FAITH ON THE PART OF ONE'S ENEMIES IS NOT LIKELY TO BE REGARDED AS A SUFFICIENT RESPONSE TO THE DEMANDS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.  
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BY LINKING HIMSELF CLOSELY TO THE TENUOUS FATE OF THE FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, GONCALVES HAS PROBABLY WEAKENED RATHER THAN STRENGTHENED HIS POSITION.

6. THE VIOLENCE IN PONTE DE LIMA IS THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT TO DATE. IT SETS AN OMINOUS BACKDROP TO COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL'S SCHEDULED APPEARANCE TONIGHT (AUGUST 19) IN OPORTO. THE OPORTO RALLY UNDERSCORES THE ASSERTIVE POSTURE WHICH THE PCP HAS RECENTLY ADOPTED IN THE FACE OF THE CONTINUING WAVE OF VIOLENCE OUTSIDE LISBON. RESORT TO FIREARMS BY BESIEGED PCP MILITANTS HAS BECOME ROUTINE. CUNHAL'S APPEARANCES IN ALCOBACA ON AUGUST 16 AND OPORTO TONIGHT (AUGUST 19) BECOME PROVOCATIVE ACTS IN THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT. THE PCP, OF COURSE, IS UNDER PRESSURE TO SHOW THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN INTIMIDATED AND TO GIVE SOME HEART TO ITS HARD-PRESSED MILITANTS. THE OVERALL PCP RESPONSE, HOWEVER, SEEMS CALCULATED TO MAKE THE MILITARY USE FORCE AGAINST THE CROWDS TO PROTECT PCP MILITANTS AND FACILITIES. THUS FAR, SUCH EFFORTS HAVE MET WITH ALMOST UNIFORM FAILURE, AND, AS THE PONTE DE LIMA INCIDENT REVEALS, APPEAR TO HAVE BACKFIRED WITH TROOPS EXCHANGING GUNFIRE WITH PCP MILITANTS. ALTHOUGH REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER CORVACHO TOLD OUR CONSUL ON AUGUST 15 HE WAS DETERMINED TO

ENSURE THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE AT TONIGHTS'S RALLY, TENSIONS  
WILL BE RUNNING HIGH IN OPORTO.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Concepts:** POLITICAL SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Reference:** 75 LISBON 4687  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, PO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006